

BROOKS-BRIGHT
PRIZE ESSAYS 1928

with an introduction by
EDWARD M. EAST

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BROOKS-BRIGHT
ANGLO-AMERICAN
PRIZE ESSAYS-1928

with an introduction by

EDWARD M. EAST

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N O T E

THE following essays are those to which Dr. William H. Faunce, President of Brown University, awarded the first, second, and third prizes in THE BROOKS-BRIGHT ANGLO-AMERICAN INTERSCHO-
LASTIC PRIZE ESSAY CONTEST for 1928.

This contest is conducted yearly among the seniors in secondary schools. There are two divisions among the schools competing: one is made up of those schools that are members of the Brooks-Bright Foundation, and the second of such other schools as may care to enter. Similar prizes are awarded to the three winners in each group.

The winner of the first prize in each group is given a trip to Europe, with special entertainment in Great Britain by those interested in the movement there.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	vii
<i>By Edward M. East</i>	
<i>Bussey Institution, Harvard University</i>	

Membership Schools

I. ESSAY AWARDED FIRST PRIZE.....	3
<i>By Cameron MacKenzie</i>	
<i>a student at Lawrenceville School</i>	
II. ESSAY AWARDED SECOND PRIZE.....	17
<i>By Thomas Chaney Sheffield</i>	
<i>a student at St. Paul's School</i>	
III. ESSAY AWARDED THIRD PRIZE.....	37
<i>By Philip B. Harder</i>	
<i>a student at The Hill School</i>	

Nonmembership Schools

I. ESSAY AWARDED FIRST PRIZE.....	55
<i>By Frank Norris II.</i>	
<i>a student at The Tamalpais School</i>	

	PAGE
II. ESSAY AWARDED SECOND PRIZE.....	67
<i>By Lawrence Kilham</i>	
<i>a student at Newton Country Day</i>	
<i>School</i>	
III. ESSAY AWARDED THIRD PRIZE.....	79
<i>By Max Wales</i>	
<i>a student at Topeka High School</i>	

INTRODUCTION

THE Brooks-Bright Foundation hopes to promote friendship and good will between the British Commonwealth of Nations and the United States of America. This objective, desirable as it may be, can hardly be said to make the organization notable within that increasingly powerful group established for the purpose of furthering international peace and amity. But in its method of work the Foundation is remarkable. It asks the future leaders, the youth of the land, to consider objectively the relations of these two great peoples, and to set forth impartially the results of their inquiries. The special phases of the subject that have been undertaken thus far are, the benefit to civilization of a British-American understanding, the significance of the American Revolution in the development of the British Empire, and the effect of commercial rivalry on international policies. This is certainly unorthodox procedure for the propagation of a doctrine. The accepted mode in such cases is to unloose a flood of sentiment, and thus to arouse intense emotions which are

soon spent. But the new way is better. It is in harmony with the spirit of the age, the spirit of science. If there is merit in a proposal, it should be capable of rational demonstration. Not even in the development of moral ideas can the stimulation of the ductless glands take the place of rigorous logic, if man is to live up to the specific name with which Linnæus honored him.

This year the subject for study is the effect of population increase on international policies. It is a profound question. Huxley called it the true riddle of the Sphinx which awaits the coming of a second Œdipus; and Huxley was a man of sound judgment. It is an old question. From the time of Plato on, nearly all of the great philosophers have given it their attention. Yet it takes on new significance to-day, for mankind faces new values. Every land has been surveyed and charted. The material wealth of the globe, both actual and prospective, has been determined with a greater degree of precision than most people suspect. And the population of the world has doubled during the past century. It takes no great acumen, therefore, to see that human welfare is inextricably bound up with population density.

Frankly, I am optimistic enough to believe that this involved tangle, which has become notorious as The Population Problem, will be solved. It is half the battle, as my old teacher of mathematics used to say, to have dissected out the component parts of a proposition; and this has been done. We have come to realize that in all of our political, economic, and humanitarian policies we cannot evade the fact that man is an animal engaged in a very real struggle for existence. This is a great step. When we fully appreciate the additional fact that international coöperation will make this struggle easier instead of harder, as did the type of coöperation which built up clans and nations, then a triumph will have been achieved.

It has been said that England's battles were won on the cricket fields of Eton and Harrow. Here is a greater conquest to be made. Will not the hours of study in American schools represented by the essays contained in this little volume contribute something to that end, a result so much to be desired?

EDWARD M. EAST.

Boston, Massachusetts
May, 1928

SUBJECT OF 1928 ESSAYS

As the white population of the United States and the British Commonwealth of Nations has increased in the past century from twenty million to one hundred seventy million, in how far will the continued growth of population and the diminishing food supply affect the future relations between these two countries and to what extent will it affect their relations with other nations?

MEMBERSHIP SCHOOLS



CAMERON MACKENZIE

THE WINNING ESSAY

By CAMERON MACKENZIE *of New York City.*

A Student at the Lawrenceville School

TO the student delving for the first time into economics in search of information about food, population, and their relation to each other, there are presented some appalling facts. He learns that, economically, the world is headed for a state in the near future when man will be hard-pressed for food, hard-pressed for room. He discerns through the printed page the picture of a nation fretting at its limits, the picture of a people uneasy with a tension arising from they know not what. From the pages of his newly opened books there arises the grim spectre of war, the spectre of a war brought on by over-population and its attendant evils. He reads, aghast, that these pictures which he sees will become a reality within the next century and a half.

If there must be war, at first glance it would

appear that conflict between the United States and the British Commonwealth would be inevitable. America must expand. Canada is comparatively unoccupied and very near. An invasion would solve the problem. However, as we look more closely at the matter, we reach the conclusion that this increase in population and decrease in food supply will, in all probability, serve to unite these two great countries with a bond far more binding than that by which they are now joined. It will replace the present bond of Pollyana-like feeling, sickly with its own superficial sentimentality, by a real and strong one whose strands are common sense and mutual respect.

To become more specific, let us now examine the immediate effect of an increasing population and diminishing food supply on the world as a whole. To do this we do not have to use our imagination in building hypothetical cases. It is well known what the results are. History has left us her picture to scan with anxious eyes, and the science of economics has translated this picture into terms of millions dead, months to live, and thousands per square mile. China and India have taught their lesson well. Slight over-population, such as the United States and Russia will

experience in the near future, leads, in the last analysis, to war. Gross over-population, such as is found in China to-day, results in nothing more than internal bloodshed, and eventual readjustment of population, thanks to the ravages of disease, unless a strong central government is maintained. In this event the symptoms are similar to those accompanying slight over-population. For this reason we may include Japan, though its condition will be one of gross over-population, in the same group as the United States and Russia.

Having determined from historical analogy, translated and tabulated by economics, what the effect of over-population will be—war on the one hand, disintegration on the other—we must next consider whom this condition will affect and at what time. The eventuality of war, a paramount factor in international relations, is our chief concern and we will therefore turn our attention to those countries in which a slight degree of over-population will first evince itself. Including Japan as a nation which, though grossly over-populated in the future, will be belligerent because of its strong central government, we find that the United States, Japan, and Russia will be the more hardly pressed coun-

tries in this class. All of these nations are increasing their population at the rate of nine to twelve per thousand per annum—the fastest in the world to-day; that all have reached the limits of their territorial expansion, though the United States has not yet filled up this land. Both America and Russia are to-day approaching a state technically known as “optimum density,” which means that the land cultivated is in such a proportion to the land occupied as to afford the inhabitants a maximum of food. Any further increase in land will mean a curtailment of the arable land, and hence a lower per capita supply of food. This potential state of food shortage is equivalent to one of over-population. Therefore, since the United States, Russia, and Japan are nearest to a state of over-population, and since they are increasing at the fastest rate, they will be the first to feel the effects of slight over-population—provided that these countries are not so educated in the next one hundred and fifty years as to make the use of contraceptive methods of birth-control a universal practice.

To quote Mr. Carr-Saunders in his treatise entitled “Population” on the subject of the results of slight over-population: “Social unrest

(would be) prevalent. Any existing jealousy of countries would be intensified, and proposals to try violent remedies obtain a hearing. . . . Over-population . . . predisposes nations to war." If war does come it will be because of an underlying desire for the annexation of new territories by the aggressor. The object of such an annexation will be to maintain the overflowing population of the aggressor. Now, provided that we can discern in the probable future relations of these three countries and the rest of the world a minor cause of friction, we can safely prophesy that a war of aggression will result.

War will not, however, be precipitated by such an objective cause as the annexation of land for land's sake. A people will not go to war with the avowed intent of gaining territory. Such an idea may not even enter their heads, yet, because of the disturbing influence of over-population, they will make the most of any excuse for war. Immigration restrictions will probably be Japan's stumbling block. Russia's temper will be aroused by any one of a thousand petty disputes which are so common in Central Europe. A reason for the United States' declaring war is not so easy to find. The Panama, how-



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ever, is a likely tinder-box. In any case, causes there are. War, therefore, is inevitable.

A war such as will be precipitated will be of big proportions. "Cannon fodder" will be cheap, weapons the most deadly in history, resources great, equipment (save in the case of Russia) complete. It will be imperative that the larger nations take sides in order to save themselves from eventual rivalry by the victors. Anglo-American relations will be vitally affected by this aligning of the powers, the question being whether or not we will fight as allies.

In order to make a more certain prophecy of events let us try to determine which nation will first be so affected as to render it the aggressor. Japan seems to be the logical choice, because of her already over-populated condition. Hers is a rich country, hers a large navy, hers an ambitious people. However, because of her exceptionally small natural resources, Japan will never by herself dare declare war. She will work by treatises and through allies. In any case we may safely assert that Japan will declare war, through or with her allies, before the United States, in view of the fact that the people of the United States have not yet fully de-

veloped their natural resources. This is the vital consideration.

Assuming that Japan and her allies become the belligerent party, the question now presents itself as to the probable allegiance of the American people; for the future relations of the British people and the American people depend, as we have indicated, on whether these two peoples will ally themselves or not. A choice of allegiance they must make, in a war of such a magnitude as will be precipitated. At once there is an inclination to say that the United States and the British will unite against a third party intent on conquest. Various vague phrases such as "the reign of the English-speaking nations," and "the kinship of blood" leap to one's mind. Yet, when examined, a majority of these so-called ties prove to be meaningless, mere empty phrases.

Perhaps the most overrated of all is the one which goes by the name of "the kinship of blood." A little examination of its various component parts would not be amiss. It seems that because a part of the people of the United States comes from the same stock as the people of the British Commonwealth, because we have the same sort of government, because our tra-

ditions are somewhat alike, and because we speak the same language, we will stand united in a beautiful hands-across-the-sea attitude from now till eternity. To the careful student of history this attitude at once reveals its absurdity. A campaign of hatred, conducted through the "yellow sheets," can destroy, and has destroyed, in a few weeks the relations of centuries. A single speech will outweigh a thousand books. Man in a crowd is an emotional being, easily swayed, easily deluded. Then, when confronted with these ties, what does one find them to be? Traditions are but time-mellowed superficialities, common descent but an abstract sentimentality. The same species of rule creates about the same binding tie as there exists between one broker and his neighbor—which is not, after all, a very powerful one.

There are, however, ties, and very strong ones, which will in all probability bind the people of the British Commonwealth to those of the United States in the eventuality of world war. In the first place common sense will unite them. To-morrow as to-day, these two will be among the world's greatest powers, and war between them would spell the practical annihilation of both parties, modern warfare being what it is.

It is unthinkable, diplomatically, that such a thing as an alliance with a weaker power occur when the alternative of an alliance with a stronger power without the loss of prestige or honor is offered. Furthermore, in this case, it would not only be an unjustifiable folly to unite with the lesser power, but would place a stain on our international honor; for any war such as the one in which Japan will be involved will, of a necessity, be one of aggression and hence morally unjustifiable.

Coupled with these points is the fact that the war will assume the aspects of a racial conflict, Japan being involved. Such is the nature of the Anglo-Saxon that any other than a most superficial alliance with a people not of his own race is repugnant to him in the extreme. The power of this argument cannot be exaggerated. The individual is, after all, the one who goes to war and fights. The cogency of the personal element as a determining factor is great. Without the support of the individual, war is an impossibility—and there is not an Anglo-Saxon who would not choose another Anglo-Saxon in preference to a Japanese to eat at his table.

Because, then, they will eschew total annihilation, because they will prefer to fight with and

share the world with an Anglo-Saxon, and because they prefer an honorable to a dishonorable war, the peoples of the two great English-speaking nations will unite.

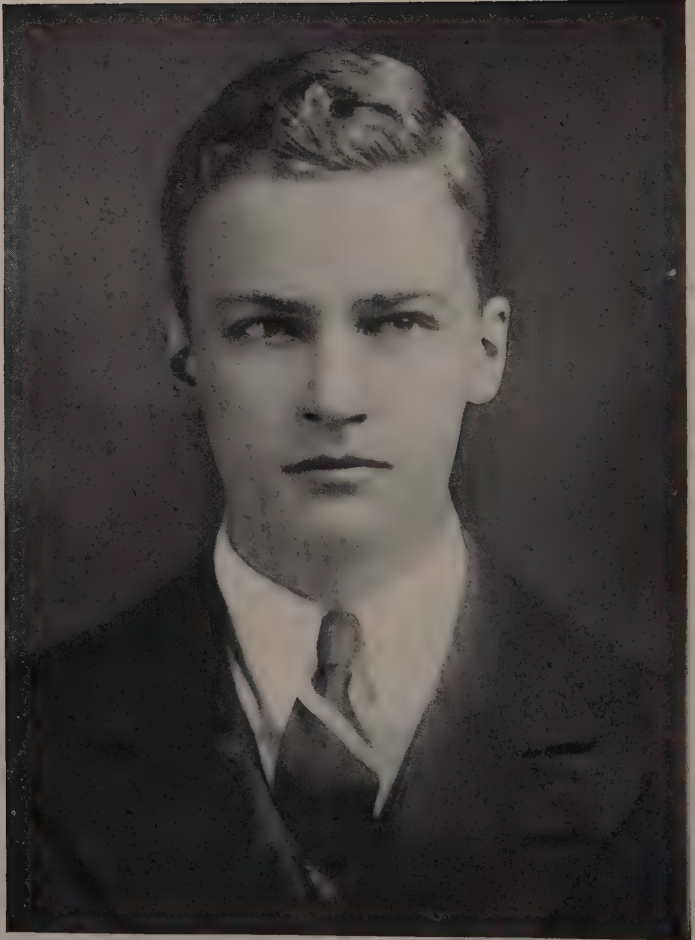
War and Anglo-American alliance, however, are only the primary results of an increasing population and decreasing food supply. The war itself will cause tremendous changes. Decimation of the contending forces will relieve the congestion and ease the tension of the world. No longer will mankind fret nervously, no longer will diplomatic circles become menacingly polite, reflecting the uneasiness of an over-full country. Furthermore, a real union of the United States and the British Commonwealth will be founded. This war will be one of self-preservation, a much more desperate affair than that magnified trade dispute which was the World War. It will knit its allies together in the closer bond of common defense. It will bind them tightly with chains of common fear, and pride in a common race. Out of this closer contact will rise a union founded on the firmer basis of mutual understanding, and mutual aims.

Finally, we must consider the relations of these newly united peoples to the rest of the world. Ruled by different governments, yet mo-

tivated by the same ideals, spread all over the face of the earth, yet closely knit by the bond of understanding, they will function as an unit. The other powers of the earth will not consider the one without reckoning with the other. As the most powerful alliance in the world they will command the respect of all.

On the grounds, therefore, that an increase in population coupled with a decrease in food will lead to over-population, that over-population will affect Russia, Japan, and the United States first, that the effect will be war, and that war will serve to ally the English-speaking nations, we venture to say that in all probability this condition of over-population will serve to knit together the peoples of the United States and the people of the British Commonwealth.

Once united they will stand shoulder to shoulder, an enlightened people. Ruling the earth by example, they will be ruled through wisdom by a past whose picture is etched deep by the bitterness of death, and darkly shrouded in the black of ignorance.



THOMAS CHANEY SHEFFIELD

THE ESSAY AWARDED SECOND PRIZE

By THOMAS CHANEY SHEFFIELD of *New London,*
Conn.

A Student at St. Paul's School

IT is the main purpose of this essay to show that the problem of food supply and population growth will unite the United States and the British Commonwealth of Nations into that state of complete understanding and friendship which will not only prove of great mutual benefit, but ultimately will secure lasting welfare and peace for the whole world.

The idea of Anglo-American co-operation is not a new, post-war impulse. It was a radiant vision to the foresighted men of the 18th century. Men like Burke prophesied its value, for they realized its true world-wide significance. And today, even in the hubbub and confusion of a money-mad generation, interest has caught and centered as never before on this vital issue. Rarely indeed, do we glance through any peri-

odical or newspaper, rarely do we hear plausible solutions for the world's economic situation, but that the importance of British-American interdependence is emphasized. Unfortunately, however, even the most sane and convincing editorials or essays cannot bring about a "complete understanding" between two such great powers as the British Commonwealth of Nations and our own country. Nor can a mere exchange of compliments or handshaking sentimentality gain so desirable an end, for these shallow, insincere effusions do as much to retard our friendship as the seemingly more harmful diplomatic disagreements.

Two nations cannot be linked together by mere sentiment. A real international understanding, or as it is more commonly called, an *entente*, must be forged of far finer metal than the high sounding phrases of oratorical diction. Of such a chain, each link should be an untarnishable sympathy; it must not snap in peace or war. In fact, peace is often the most trying time, according to a well-known authority on world affairs, who writes: "The test of strength of an *entente* between two nations does not come in time of war when a common danger and a common suffering form an unbreakable bond . . .

the test comes when the sea of international troubles is calm and each nation is possessed with complacent self-satisfaction."

Today, as I shall endeavor to demonstrate, a real and sometime indissoluble chain of friendship, joining the British Commonwealth with the United States, is in the making. Although the work has progressed rather slowly, it is now within sight of completion. We have all the necessary links, but as yet, we have found no force sufficiently powerful to weld them together into a perfect and enduring whole. Either we can deem ourselves fortunate in possessing (as do no other two nations) all the requisites for international understanding or we can feel righteously indignant that, having all these aids for amity, nothing very significant has been accomplished.

The first link, ready to be welded into this chain of friendship, is the ability of the United States and Great Britain to speak and think in the same terms: the possession of a common tongue. This should be a decidedly influential factor in the bettering of our relations, for we are not only mutually intelligible from the start of a conversation but, even in argument, we may search the inner recesses of each other's minds

without being baffled by some insidious foreign idiom. From almost every angle, the common tongue is a tremendous asset, because it yields a more potent sense of kinship and intercomprehension with the average person than do the intricate vagaries of statecraft.

The second link is common law. In both countries, the ideals of justice have remained the same although the actual practice may be slightly different; consequently, the same quality of mind governs the two nations in making their laws and dispensing justice. This fact alone insures against a really wide divergence in their relations.

Next, there is common thought, or, as we might term it, common ideals. Common ideals proceed from the same traditions whether they be legal, social, or ecclesiastical. All these traditions have been inherited from England. Our colleges, our universities were nearly all founded by men moulded by British culture and dominated by British ideals. It is this fact which reveals why the soul of Britain has been stamped upon the American people as has been the soul of no other nation. In origin both our system of government and our religion are English. The

American Revolution, itself a fight for freedom, was based on inborn British philosophy.

The fourth link is our inherent racial similarity. This fact is all the more striking when we consider how truly conglomerate a people we are. In the last hundred years, 3,319,000 Russians, 4,078,000 Austro-Hungarians, 4,218,000 Italians and 5,500,000 Germans have brought with them inherited customs and traditions; but all these foreign countries, put together, have not exerted the influence that 8,330,000 Britons have succeeded in maintaining.

Today only 55% of the white American people are of British extraction. Any *Who's Who*, however, will show that the real leaders in our country, the law-makers, the statesmen, the men who lead intellectual movements or otherwise benefit the nation, are included in this number. No two nations are so near akin in blood, hence no two nations can be so closely related in character. Whatever characteristics the American may possess that make him different from his British cousin are due for the most part to environment, and these differences are inevitable.

Perhaps it is superficial to point out the link of common literature, for it is a recognized truth that the names of Shakespeare, Milton, Byron,

Burns, Tennyson, and Browning are revered by every educated American. English literature is our treasure-house because we have the necessary key, the common language. Nations feeding on the same intellectual foods obviously should work together.

Thus briefly we have sketched a few of the more important links in this chain of friendship. But these are really requisites for an enduring *entente*.

Fortunately, Great Britain and the United States have other reasons for co-operating in the solution of their food and population problems. For example, Great Britain is the nation with which America has the most intimate physical relations. There are extensive British possessions in the Caribbean and strong outposts for the British navy. Our Panama Canal is immeasurably important for her and her constituent commonwealths. Obviously, we trust one another. Canada's four thousand mile frontier without the blemish of a single fortress proves how deep-rooted this faith is.

Still another reason for British-American co-operation in the economic situation is the very fact of their enormous size. For the biggest of empires and biggest of republics to hold aloof

from one another in an economic crisis would be a betrayal of humanity, for food supply and population is a problem for the world to face as well as they, themselves. It must be the task of Great Britain and the United States to solve the enigma with respect to their own conditions and then direct the salvation of humanity.

The desire and readiness of both countries to act together in the furtherance of such a common purpose should arise from all those links I have attempted to describe. But it is more than a common purpose; it is a vexing, harassing problem that *must* be solved. It *demand*s their united efforts!

There it lies, in the too near future, looming up like an immense iceberg before the ship of progress: this threat of over-population and lack of sustenance. But with Great Britain and the United States together at the wheel, the menace may be avoided. If their combined resources do prove effective, as I believe they will, they not only will save themselves, and, ultimately, the rest of the world, but will be united forever by the thus completed chain of understanding. It is my firm belief in such a union that I have taken for a thesis. Time alone can reply.

Now let us consider some of the more signifi-

cant aspects of the food and population conditions. In the subject for this essay it was stated that the combined white population of the United States and the British Commonwealth of Nations had, in the past century, increased from 20,000,000 to 170,000,000. At first sight, these figures portray such an astonishing rate of increase that Malthus' predictions for world overpopulation appear to be well founded. But although the situation is grave, these figures are not such ill omens as they seem. For when we consider how much emigration from other countries there was to the United States alone, from 1800 to 1900, when we realize the great strides science has made in decreasing the death rate and increasing the food productiveness of the world, the 150 million increase is somewhat accounted for. Nevertheless, the figure is a danger-sign, for it reveals careless unguarded expansion. It is a miniature of the world's complacent, happy-go-lucky attitude that must be checked or the results will be dire.

The average person has not cared such an awful lot during the past hundred years about whether the world might reach its maximum population a century or so after he was dead. The affairs of two generations ahead were

deemed out of his (or her) ken. In the past, nature had always taken care of such things. Undoubtedly, she would continue her good work. This has been the attitude of the average man whose life consists in working, relaxing, and dying. A few thinkers, however, even as far back as 1798, such as Malthus, were foresighted enough to realize how great the impending danger was. Being in the minority, most of their doctrines were disregarded by the masses; consequently, the world today, as well as the United States and Great Britain, faces the danger of over-population within a century if some steps are not taken to curtail the present rate of increase.

Consider Great Britain's present economic status. According to the census of 1921, her population alone, exclusive of her commonwealths and colonies, was 44,173,704; approximately 464 persons to the square mile. Today, every available acre is in cultivation. Her forests lie felled before the overwhelming need of soil. Yet under ordinary conditions, Great Britain still can only support 37% of her people with her own products. This figure was raised during the War to 47%; but it was only the result of conscientious, national economy which

was a great strain on the people. The wheat crop, one of the most important means for subsistence, provides for only 20% of the country's wants; other parts of the empire and foreign nations supply the rest. Of this item, the United States alone furnishes over half. Flour, meat, sugar, tea, and coffee—all these must be imported. Is it any wonder that statisticians claim that if Great Britain were blockaded, she would starve in three weeks?

The population still increases. Crowded, cramped, as she is, Great Britain must view the depressing sight of more and more people crowding onto the land: parasites and leaders alike. The natural law goes on unhampered. Even the common laborers feel the strain. Unemployment is rampant. In brief, the situation has already assumed such gigantic proportions that it does not seem possible for her to meet its exigencies without outside aid.

We may ask, for example, where can she send her people? We are immediately answered with "The colonies, of course!" Let us examine the great opportunities that these tributaries afford the main stream's overflow. Australia appears large enough on the map to support hordes of people. Australia is large, comprising a total

of some 1,904,000,000 acres and certainly seems sufficient stamping ground for a nation's excess population. Unfortunately, the facts of the case dispel our illusions. Edward M. East, in his biological study of population growth, *Mankind at the Crossroads*, proves conclusively that due to climatic and surface conditions, only 40,000,000 acres of the whole area are arable. In other words, Australia sinks to the size of Spain for habitation. In Canada, nearly 1,500,000,000 acres are unsuited for agriculture due to the cold. India offers even less attractions than the other two. The climate, being very temperamental, is entirely out of tempo with the English nature. Rain and drought come in fits and starts. The people, of a different race, outnumber the whites almost ten thousand to one. Furthermore, if we are to look into the future, it does not seem possible or even probable that Britain can indefinitely keep the hegemony of India by force with only a handful of soldiers on the spot. South Africa also presents the obstacle of climatic conditions. Where then, shall the population go?

The United States holds a possible key to the solution. Only 34,000 British-born citizens may enter our country annually under the present



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Immigration Law. That this number is ridiculously out of proportion is shown by comparing it with Germany's quota: 51,000. If, then, by some means or other, the British allotment could be raised to 150,000 or even 200,000, the pressure of over-population and unemployment would be greatly alleviated. The present system expires in June. Then will be the time for bringing such a beneficial change about. It is not as if undesirable dullards or cheap workers were entering our country from Great Britain and her commonwealths, for most of that immigration would be the thrifty, hard-working Scotch, who are easily assimilated into the nation's life.

But merely opening the gate of immigration will not solve the problem of food supply, because in this respect, the United States faces as great a difficulty as Great Britain. Notwithstanding the huge amounts of food we are able to export each year, our agriculture is said to have reached the saturation point under present methods. The exodus from the farms to the cities is partly responsible, and, were it not for recent scientific improvements in agriculture, our food situation would be truly critical. But as our food production remains stationary, our population is increasing so rapidly that Dr. Ray-

mond Pearl, one of America's (and indeed the world's) most eminent biologists puts our maximum population at 197 million, to be reached under current standards, about the year 2100. He points out, nevertheless, that with better provision for transportation and storage, the increased efficiency of human effort, and natural progress in the art of agriculture, our country could undoubtedly support more. Human ingenuity, however, may not always control climatic conditions. There will always be fat and lean years despite our efforts to prevent them. It amounts to a question of whether it is better to have 50,000 people suffer by a wheat shortage or 50,000,000.

The year 2100 is not as far away as most of us are inclined to believe. It is approaching with all the swiftness of time, while we make vague and haphazard prophecies. But *our* generation is responsible for whether 2100 will find a world of happiness or turmoil, and we may only effectually shoulder the responsibility by making a real effort to solve the problems of the future. In my opinion, it will be the British Commonwealth with the United States who will be mainly responsible for the solution of this baffling enigma. In their union alone, may the

world find strength to surmount the obstacle of over-population; and this union is inevitable as fate.

We of the proletariat, and unscientific minds cannot prophesy exactly how the difficulties will be overcome. Several factors are bound to play an important part. For example, birth control, condoned and condemned as it is, must at some point enter in. For the sake of humanity, human prejudice must be overruled. Either man, who by reason and exercise of his intelligence has already decreased the death rate and increased the food supply, must control the birth rate, or ever vigilant nature will increase the death rate and so restore the balance. To many of our great thinkers, birth control presents the only means for world salvation. Dean Inge states, "There is no hope for the basic social problem of population except in the scientific control of birth."

Transportation is also a potential factor. With new developments being made every day in the field of aviation, who can foretell what great marvels posterity may behold? It is not improbable to suppose, and hope, that in the future large quantities of food may be carried as efficiently by air as our mail is today. Then

the Atlantic will be a mere rivulet and mountains, petty mounds.

Synthetic foods may prove somewhat of a remedy. Concentration of food energy was proved practical during the war. No doubt in a time of world need, the same methods could be used even more successfully. Innovations in agriculture due to grafting may also help. But no matter what methods are used, this much remains sure, that the future will not find the United States or Great Britain struggling on by themselves in the effort to solve the problem, each too proud to accept the aid of the other. On the contrary, by reason of the already existing ties of language, of thought, of law, of customs, of ideals and all the others I have discussed, they will unite their tremendous wealth and resources and thereby meet the difficulty, however great it may be.

Realizing that "two heads are better than one" and that for the common good of Anglo-Saxon stock, some mutual adjustment must be made, they will join in friendship. There will be no bickering or diplomatic incisions; there will be no time for pettiness. The move for union and co-operation will be made so quickly that it will seem only a part of the natural

course of events, and, at last our dreams of a "complete understanding" between the United States and Great Britain will come true.

In other words, because of the common problem of diminishing food supply and population growth, the peoples of both countries will have finally learned to agree with Walter H. Page, who said "I do know something about the British. I know enough to make very sure of the soundness of my conclusion that they are necessary to us and we to them, else God would have permitted the world to be peopled in some other way."

But now, what shall we propose about "their relations to other peoples and nations"? In my opinion, one word would suffice for an answer: peace. Once the British Commonwealth and the United States are really linked together by a chain of "complete understanding," their combined power will not only be great enough to make them joint trust-holders for the world, but it will also embody them with the powers of world magistracy. They will then be able to stamp out war together, as the 1925 winner of the Brooks-Bright Prize pointed out; and world peace will at least be a fact instead of a puzzling mirage. The other peoples and nations of

the world will, of necessity, respect the combined leadership of our country and Great Britain, for they will realize that with two such able helmsmen steering the world (to use a trite metaphor twice) there can be no danger of foundering.

In summary, I have tried to show: first that the diminishing food supply and population growth will affect the future relations of the United States and Great Britain to such an extent that they will be joined indissolubly in friendship and co-operation; secondly, that as a result of this union, nothing less than world peace will result. Of course the subject is an arbitrary one, and whether my assumptions prove correct or not, is only for the future to decide. Yet come what may, I am convinced of this much: there will soon be a crisis to be passed by both the United States and Great Britain. Let them not attempt the task alone!



PHILIP BRADLEY HARDER

THE ESSAY AWARDED THIRD PRIZE

By PHILIP BRADLEY HARDER *of New York City*
A Student at The Hill School

THE relations between the United States and the British Commonwealth of Nations, diplomatic and economic, are foremost in the thoughts of the leaders of both nations. These two Commonwealths, sprung from the same ancestry, founded originally upon the same fundamental principles of liberty but weaned far from them, are the two greatest military, colonial and industrial states the world has ever known. With them rests the power to further the development of civilization by coordinating their greatness for the benefit of all humanity, by international amity and recodification of international law; or to plunge the world back into eternal darkness and chaos whence it has so laboriously emerged, by continued discord and by fighting selfishly between themselves.

Disputes arising from economic clashes in the markets of the world are inevitable. But other quarrels coming as the results of differences in population densities will arise, and statesmen will continue to cloak them in lies, for friction between nations having its source in population problems does not fly its true colors, but rather masquerades under the complex disguises of national honor, national interest, hate and ego-tism. But let us look into it more closely.

In the old days, when the survival of the fittest was the rule, only one fifth of all the babies born could hope to attain maturity. Infanticide and pestilential death removed all but the very strongest babes, as in Sparta. But now with four of every five babies born maturing, a tenth or fifteenth child is not nearly so welcome.

Today it is a serious matter for a nation like Italy for instance, or Japan, to breed heedlessly with no thought for lack of space or deposits of coal, iron or petroleum. Both these states are terribly overpopulated, yet by taxing bachelors and making much of large families, as in Italy, or by the necessity of fifteen or twenty children in order to make any sort of living at all, as in Japan, India or China, these nations are steadily increasing their populations, the possibili-

ties of war, due to fear of their neighbors, and their consequent unrest.

But it can be said that the birth rates of these and all other nations are declining. In France the survival rate is exactly balanced by the death rate, and her population is neither growing nor diminishing. England's birth rate has declined from 34 per thousand in 1840 to 23 in 1910. Similarly the birth rates of the other nations have without exception declined, whether they were low to begin with, or high. There has been an outcry against this decline, especially in France, where large families are being encouraged, and where the fear of German domination is still paramount. But Havelock Ellis says that the outcry against the decline of the birth rates on the ground that it denotes a new selfishness in place of the old altruism, is without foundation. Pearson traces one cause of the declination to sane child labor laws.

The death rates of present-day Great Britain and of the United States have been cut almost one half below that of seventy-five years ago by the great advances of medical science. But the number of babies born per hundred thousand is still fifty percent above the number of deaths which offset the births. We now have a

world population of an estimated seventeen hundred millions. At the present rate this will be doubled in about seventy years.

It is always possible for the population to increase to the point at which large numbers of the people will starve. For even with the celerity and efficiency of modern relief methods it is possible for a famine to occur, as is evidenced in China at the moment, and not so very long ago in India, both overpopulated. But it is not desirable that the population should pass beyond the point at which the income is the largest possible to be obtained. For when three births yield two adults, the husband will feel more sympathetic with his wife's desires not to be a mere breeding machine, than when it required a minimum of eight births to produce, eventually, two adults to continue the line.

For connected to this problem of a crescent population is the question of providing sufficient food to nourish adequately all the people. At present the United States is tending toward a population estimated by Pearl, to approach 214 millions in 1964. With agriculture on the same basis then as now, Pearl also believes that only some 166 million of people can be provided for. Food for the rest must either be sought else-

where, or the present standard of production must be doubled and kept permanently upon that basis, according to Baker and Strong.

Moreover no new scientific ingenuity of agriculture nor any possible decrease of human stature so as to decrease the quantity of food necessary per person, can possibly alleviate the importance of the situation of not only this country but also of the other nations, notably Great Britain, for the British Isles have on hand at any one time only six weeks food, and during the War, this was still more meager. Sir Henry Rew has found that the production of food within the British Isles is 41% of the amount required. The rest comes from Canada, the United States, Europe and South America.

When science perfected cheap power and made possible more efficient manufacturing methods, England turned her farming lands over to sheep raising in order to supply wool to the factories, and turned to Europe and the Americas for her food supply. She buys raw materials, manufactures them into marketable products and sells them for a profit with which she purchases food and more raw materials. But it is only natural that those countries which have been and are now supplying England with

the food to fill her 59% deficiency, will in the course of a very few years be entirely concerned with their own food problem, to say nothing of being able to supply England. Even now the exportation of American grain has fallen far below even that of the exceptional war years. What then, when food supplies are even more meager? Why, famine will come, and fifty million people, or thereabouts, will die.

Speaking of the future can never be definite. And especially is it indefinite when one is predicting the future diplomatic relations between nations. Let us examine international relations as they are affected by food and population problems.

Now the Great War was caused by England, France, Germany, Russia and others, seeking not to crush the others entirely, but to obtain new foreign markets and new outlets for manufactured goods and for population. It is still, and until a millennium is reached always will be, possible that armed strife may develop out of the great price wars and ruthless methods used by business interests in both England and America, to maintain or to assume world supremacy in foreign markets, industrial wars pregnant with the seeds of international belliger-

ency. For now as never before are coal, iron, petroleum and food the causes behind international crisis. In the future the cause paramount will be whatever is the most vital resource upon which a powerful nation depends in large measure for its life.

Moreover, when the population excess which England must export has partially filled the now comparatively empty spaces of Canada, it is altogether possible that a farsighted American government may step in, while Canada is still sparsely populated, and annex the nation. For the minute one nation has a large and powerful neighbor it proceeds to arm, as is shown in the case of the French and Germans; and such a large neighbor to the north, though bound almost inseparably, as Marcossou says, to us by business ties, would, if it were still a colony of Britain's, indubitably change the whole policy of our national defence. And it is also quite probable that such annexation would mean the breaking up of the British Empire into its several large units. Annexation by peaceful methods has already been attempted through a treaty of reciprocal tariffs which was passed by Congress but rejected by Canada, during Taft's administration. It is safe to assume that it will be

attempted again, and it is conceivable that this next time it may succeed.

Now let us scrutinize very briefly the tremendous Asiatic problem. Occidental science has reduced the death rate in Japan and China. And by so doing has unbalanced the equilibrium between births and deaths, for now the birth rate is still vastly higher than the death rate. Occidental duplicity and bulldozing has in China caused the loss to Great Britain and other European nations of these valuable markets.

Germany has found, and England has yet to learn that a nation's colonial settlements need not be expensive liabilities, but may be assets. Germany's commercial colonies are the countries with whom she can be friendly, to whom she can sell her manufactured goods in return for which she receives food; for nowadays nations are so interdependent, civilization so highly organized, that the life of each nation is bound up within the life of every other nation. So it is with Great Britain, Japan, America, and the others. For in order to exist England must maintain her supremacy in world markets, or else she will not be able to show a profit with which to buy food.

There are those who advance education as

the panacea of all evils. To be sure, education of the right kind must not be neglected; illiteracy is all too prevalent. But education of the right kind is not freely dispensed in the United States and most other countries. Education is the only way, I believe, to show the peoples of the world that war is the result of selfish ambition, greed, population pressure and insufficient food supply. (Not such pretty phrases as ideals, honor democracy but the real reasons nevertheless.) Education is the only panacea for this evil and must change the viewpoint of which war is one of the results, and too, must conquer that selfishness which is one of the causes of war. Education must change men into rational beings with eyes to see the light, to distinguish between the avowed and the true motives, the social and economic forces behind international crises and strife.

Scientific agriculture will indubitably raise the amount of food produced in the world a considerable degree. New lands will be added to those already producing, lands taken from forests, reclaimed from deserts by irrigation, from swamps by reclaiming. The constituents of the air will be called upon, too, and also those of the sea. But very little can be produced



THE HILL SCHOOL, POTTSTOWN, PA.

from either, when the amount is compared to that produced on land. But even that will not be enough. For if we continue to propagate unthinkingly, even the greatest possible production of food will be insufficient to nourish the world, and famine will carry away its periodic toll.

As a small example of what the world may become when food supply is insufficient to the demand, regard the case of India and China. Civilized as is India, with her railroads and her motor transportation, she is still in the throes of death when her food supply cannot equal the demand. And China is even now undergoing the same horrible experience, with babies being sold for what they will bring, in order to buy food. And all this death and destruction is solely because the death rate has not, nay, cannot keep pace with the survival rate.

It is clearly a question of a reduction in a swiftly growing population to fit a rapidly diminishing food supply. Birth control must be made national and international. Education must be brought into play to change the laws which forbid the dissemination of contraceptive information by mail in the entire United States; and in eighteen of them by any means whatever.

In France it is even more drastic. In England and in the other countries of the continent it is needed and not hampered very much by law; although in Italy the dissemination of contraceptive information is forbidden. If scientific information is not available, infanticide and abortion are, and these crimes are practised more widely than is generally known, as Judge Lindsay so startlingly proves in his essays.

Divine laws to the contrary, birth control is necessary. Legislators the world over must recodify their national and international laws regarding contraceptive information and its dissemination to the people of the world. For as Mary Rennett says in one of her pamphlets the government of the United States provides a bureau to tell farmers the best methods of breeding prize cattle, or of spacing plants to grow the best vegetables, etc., but does not provide, —will not allow,—a bureau or clinics to give the same information concerning human beings. Legislators must swallow their moral squeamishness, or their militarism, or their Rooseveltian theories of large populations to man the armies and navies of the nations, and must provide, through education, the complete and

simply scientific dissemination of contraceptive information.

Two questions arise from a just discussion of these facts. First, what innate qualities are possessed by each class of people, and how much they differ; and second, what particular qualities are desirable and which are not. The answer to both must be given only after careful inquiry by intelligence tests and by measurements of one sort or another. Quality in population is as much a necessity as optimum quantity, because all men are not born with the same inherently native endowments. Some have different physical characteristics which others do not possess; some are intelligent, others stupid; some possess one special faculty, others are wholly without it. Social progress without eugenics is impossible; but eugenics which prevents merely the propagation of defectives and which asks the more intelligent to make up the difference lost thereby, is nonsensical. What America and the rest of the world needs is to follow the example of Holland and teach birth-control methods as a matter of public policy.

For the problem of population, birth control is the only remedy. If the human race really desires a happier, longer, more fair life, the birth

rate must come down rapidly throughout the whole population, not just in certain socially worthy classes.

For the problem of food, complete international control is the only remedy. And for the ramifications of trade the same remedy is necessary.

International law is at present concerned with war, naval armaments, air forces and military establishments. These are not the remedies. Statesmen should outlaw war, should drastically reduce armaments of all types. But without taking into account the more vital social and economic problems, their work is as nothing. Commercial treaties controlled by an independent international body, backed by the collective force of public opinion the world over, should apportion raw materials of an industrial nature to America, England, Germany and Canada in the order of their dependence upon such supplies of raw materials. Markets for the sale of goods manufactured by these industrial nations should be apportioned to them, in the other nations of the world. These other nations should be the producers of raw materials which they possess within their borders, and of the food which the industrial states need over and above

their own production. Thus, I believe,—and many others more authoritative than I, and too numerous to mention,—will international amity be permanently established. England will have her foreign markets exclusively, as will Germany, America and Canada. Australia, Africa, South and Central America, Asia and agricultural Europe will supply these others with food.

But first this recodification must take into account birth control. International restriction of population to the optimum density is the first prerequisite. The knowledge which will apply the remedy to these problems is not lacking. Rather it is a question of whether there is the required amount of perseverance which will make the effort and will carry it through to a successful conclusion. The British Empire and the United States possess the knowledge. It is the application of this knowledge not to the selfish welfare of the separate nations, but to the altruistic good of the world, which will bring about the millennium of peace and brotherhood envisioned by Christ.

NONMEMBERSHIP SCHOOLS



FRANK NORRIS II.

THE ESSAY AWARDED FIRST PRIZE

By FRANK NORRIS, II. of Saratoga, Cal.

A Student at Tamalpais School

THE main difficulty in the discussion of a question as large as that of the probable adjustment of the future relationship between America and the United Kingdom, should present economic predictions all be fulfilled, is that the author finds himself stranded with little to go upon but statistics, and the movement of human events, biologically speaking, frequently proves statistics to be of little or no use.

When we consider England, a physically small but politically immense country, entirely enclosed by seas, and depending upon her merchant marine for her very existence, and when we consider that her steadily increasing population means a steadily increasing demand for staple foodstuffs, we realize that she faces a serious problem. What share of that problem confronts the United States, as well, is a ques-

tion that can not fail to interest the statesmen and economists of both countries, because it is apparent at the most casual examination of the situation that a crisis is impending which vitally concerns all nations, and the two great English speaking ones in particular. At peace, England and America can keep the world at peace; without peace, they can plunge all civilization, as well as themselves, once more into the horrors of war.

England's difficulty at the moment is that of an increasing population and a decreasing food supply. It has been estimated by the eminent British economist, Sir Daniel Hall, that two and one-half acres of cultivated land are required to support each man, woman or child; that the white population of the world is increased five million people each year; and that, if the white races insist on maintaining their present standard of living, as they doubtless will, an additional twelve million acres of cultivated land will be required each year to support this natural increase. How these conditions will affect the future relations between America and the United Kingdom, however, is a question to which it is almost impossible to give a definite answer.

These two nations are built on the same political, economical and social standards; their interests and progress are parallel. They are, furthermore, the two most powerful influences in the world today. The question is then, how long can these two great nations, annually requiring more and more room and more and more food, continue without doing one of three obvious things? Either they must come to an amicable and mutually satisfactory consolidation, or relations may continue as heretofore with an effective system of birth control in use in both nations, as well as an intensification of agricultural science to increase acre-yield, or, as is most probable, one annex the other at the end of what would probably be the greatest, the longest and the most costly, war in the history of the world.

A factor is concerned in the first of these three possibilities which makes its eventual consummation extremely doubtful: can this crisis be averted long enough to permit so thorough a spread of culture, and more particularly of economics, that the desire for universal good will become strong enough to overcome the natural desire for fame and advancement in man as well as the time-honored spirit of pride and

arrogance to be found in most nations. How long this spread of the fundamentals of the new political and economical ideals will take, it is impossible to tell, but that it is, or will be, necessary to permit an international merger is obvious. In fact even a consideration of the sacrifices, which such a movement would involve indicates that, to make a consolidation possible, today's patriotism will have to experience such a thorough and extensive renovation that in the future it will hardly be possible to recognize it.

The second consideration, that of the adoption of a national control of the birth rate, seems just as unlikely. France has been quietly controlling her birth rate for some sixty years by the well-known "my son and your daughter" theory, and she has so weakened herself that pathetic appeals for more children now appear on the town walls of all French cities, and the government offers generous aid to large families. It is significant of the danger that the Republic is in to note a recent one of these posters declared that for every French baby born seven German children put in their appearance. British feeling, however, seems to be definitely against this idea, although birth control in England is not illegal, as in the United States, and

public advertisements make information regarding it available to all.

It seems more probable that England will try to solve her problem by an agricultural adjustment, and, of course, by the continuation of her old policy of control of the seas in peace as well as war times. The first can only be accomplished if her statesmen can be impressed by the fact that, as has been already said, an additional twelve million acres of producing land are required each year to support the natural increase of the population and that agriculture will have to undergo a course of intensification and concentration to increase the actual yield of each acre. This will be, furthermore, doubly necessary if the various manufacturing interests continue to expand and crowd the farmer out. How far, however, this aid and education of agriculture is from impressing most of today's statesmen is shown by the poverty of the average British farmer and by his disadvantage in any circle, whether political or social, because he has not had the city-dweller's time to spend in culture and education. This increasing poverty, and consequent discouragement of farming in the British Isles makes England's control of the seas more and more important, for, with-

out it and in wartime, she might find herself cut off from her colonies which, even now are practically her only sources of food and raw materials.

In America, however, it must be said that farming conditions are considerably better than in England. For the American farmer, perhaps because of the extent of the farm lands in America or perhaps because of vision on the part of the government, is offered governmental encouragement of a type never found in Great Britain. The British farmer has no encouragement by Parliament; on the contrary, Free Trade is a policy which hits the farmer hard and leaves him with no alternative but to continue to try to keep his prices down to the ruinous level of imported staple articles. In America, on the other hand, the farmer is given the assistance of a banking system especially designed for his benefit, as well as several other governmental concessions.

A third possible result of the present economical conditions between the two countries is one which suggests a growing enmity between the two nations until both are plunged into a war of which it is impossible to forecast even the fundamental outlines, such as time, place,



TAMALPAIS SCHOOL, SAN RAFAEL, CAL.

and duration. Certain authorities have predicted that it is possible that the final act, which will precipitate belligerency will be America's interference with, or even invasion of, Canada. But this, in consideration of our thirty-two hundred miles of undefended Canadian frontier, and of the profound determination of the best Canadian and American influences to preserve between the two nations a lasting friendship, should be somewhat discounted by all moderate thinkers.

On the other hand, a consideration of American influences in Central and South America might suggest that far-sighted business men and statesmen are already contemplating America's expansion in the future. Canada's position as Britain's only possession bordering on two sides by United States' territory, and her enormous natural resources make her a prize which is increasing rapidly in value. Yet long before her geographical position and her tempting opportunities place our northern neighbor in danger from us, it is to be hoped that the whole world will have come to hold an entirely different and a more intelligent attitude toward war.

No conceivable world calamity would compare for sheer, savage, barbarianism with an

Anglo-American war. The facts that we are basically one people, that our code, literature and language are the same, and that the scientific methods of modern warfare, by which whole cities can be obliterated by the pressure of a single switch, are each year becoming more and more powerful as revolutionizers of the art of war, would render such an event unspeakably horrible.

Sir Edward Grey, one of the prominent figures of the Great War points out that in modern warfare neither side is a winner, conquerors and conquered suffer and pay alike. It is, therefore, the solemn obligation of this generation to make every attempt to preserve peace, and to prevent war sweeping the world in the future. Wars like the world calamity of 1914-1918 deplete and weaken the countries taking part in them, and an Anglo-American war would, perhaps, achieve nothing except to greatly reduce the population and leave the problem still unsolved.

Is there any real reason why some of the enormous appropriations now being made in preparation for far-distant wars should not be made available, instead, for a wide program of peace propaganda between the great English-speaking

nations? Why should not some of the appropriations for submarines and battleships be diverted instead to scholarships and agricultural experiments that shall teach England, America and Canada alike how to save and to increase the size of their powers of production? With America near and friendly, and with Canada capable of almost unlimited development and providing a ready field for English expansion, why should we not hope that reason and generosity may continue to rule the relationship between ourselves and England?

And, with the money that is appropriated for preparation used toward the circulation of the strongest doctrines of the modern economists, and with the brains that are devoted to the intricacies of war devoted toward the maintenance of world wide peace, why can not mankind some day be glad to admit that war, one of the last savage relics of the Old World, is gone forever?



LAWRENCE KILHAM

THE ESSAY AWARDED SECOND PRIZE

By LAWRENCE KILHAM, *of Boston, Mass.*

A Student at the Newton Country Day School

THE future conduct of nations will be shaped almost entirely by economic forces. In past history, wars were waged for the settlement of religious differences and for the glory of conquest and dynastic ambitions. Whole peoples and sects migrated into new lands to escape persecution. In our modern civilization these causes must give way to other larger and more pressing issues. The world's astonishing growth in the last century indicates the coming complications of international trade and of the satisfaction of economic needs. As leaders of the world, the United States and the British Empire will be most involved. But before we can say how far and to what extent, we must examine existing conditions.

Food is the greatest economic need of man. He cannot live without it; through all ages

he has struggled and sweated for his daily bread. Trade routes sprang up to relieve the pressure. Soon the known world became too small and new continents were discovered, settled, and turned to agriculture. With such undeveloped reservoirs of wealth, even thinking men had little fear for the food supply. The next age of man, however, will not have the room to expand which his ancestors needed to satisfy their hunger.

Malthus was first among early economists who presaged a possible shortage of food in the future. The foundation of his belief was the theory that population tended to increase in a geometric progression and the means of subsistence only in an arithmetic progression. Progress in the nineteenth century seemed to oppose this doctrine. With new inventions and sanitation, mankind multiplied as much in a hundred years as it had in all foregoing generations since the world began. A population of 850 millions was expanded to 1,700 millions. The food supply kept an even pace in spite of the increment in the human population. Yet the events of the last century, contrary though they appear, do not overthrow the theory of Malthus. They were a glorious exception which can never be repeated. No new lands will open to our urgent needs

as they did in the past. The world areas are thoroughly known and are growing smaller under the advance of man. At present the newer countries not only support themselves, but also produce a surplus to feed the older nations. Such a situation, however, will not continue with the high rate of population increase of modern times. The world's markets in the future must support their own hordes, leaving Europe and Asia to face the problem of hunger. A survey of national resources casts a clear light on the coming relations among races.

Great natural wealth and varied climates have made the United States an important food-producing country. Her imports are by no means vital to her welfare. She could sustain herself entirely on her own resources with but few alterations in present living conditions. The point of "standing room only," however, is not far distant. From a series of experiments on other nations, Doctor Pearl predicts a stationary population by the year 2080. Nature will fill up every space according to the available food supply, irrespective of immigration. "The importation of foreigners," wrote Benjamin Franklin, "into a country that has as many inhabitants as the present employment and provisions for

subsistence will bear will be in the end no increase of people. Nor is it necessary to bring foreigners to fill up any occasional vacancy in a country; for such a vacancy (if the laws are good) will soon be filled by natural generation." The United States has already ceased to relieve the European situation by welcoming immigrants to the "promised land." Soon she must pay stricter attention to other growing needs and cease to be an exporting nation.

Australia and Canada are in much the same position as the United States. Their population grows at the rapid pace of frontier countries and nearly doubles itself every thirty years. Such a rate of increase they cannot afford. Within another half century both of them will drop from the list of world granaries. The prospects of hunger in Europe are graver and in England they are imminent. On the other hand Central America, the West Indies, South America, and Africa will export food for a more extended period.

Great Britain has turned from agriculture and become the industrial workshop of the world. This transformation made her dependent on her colonies for sustenance. The size of the British Navy indicates the importance she places in

maintaining lines of communication. When they were obstructed by the Germans in the late war, England seriously felt the pressure for food. The most intensive agriculture only yielded 41% of her requirements. Even if this production were surpassed, she could hardly support herself two months unaided. The future of England is bound up with her possessions and the food which is supplied her. The continental countries are more favorably situated than England, although over-population does exist in districts of all the European nations. Belgium and Holland depend the most on imports, with Italy, France, and Germany following in quick succession.

In Asia the worst evils of over-population exist. From early ages Mother India has been swept and reswept by the hand of famine. Her millions of dirty, ill-fed people live close up to the food supply. The steadying influence of Great Britain alone keeps the transportation lines open and maintains order. English brains and English money are exchanged for Indian wheat. India could well use the food she sends abroad, but without foreign aid she would now be leading a miserable existence, cowering under disease, plagues, and famine. Her neighbor China is also grossly over-populated. The people

swarm like ants on an ant hill, subsisting on the scantiest nourishment. They live huddled together in chaotic confusion with little knowledge of modern improvements. The safety margin from starvation is practically zero. Travellers notice an enormous birth-rate in China, but increase is necessarily slow in the face of hunger and disease. Burmah, Siam, and Indo-China are able to raise a slight surplus, which only partially fills the outstretched hands of their neighbors. Japan almost entirely relies on such assistance. The Japanese have a civilization adapted from China, but are more advanced and better organized. They find their islands narrow and crowded. A fleet rivaling that of the United States in size is none too sure a safeguard for their future welfare. Asia, like Europe, as a whole, is over-populated. It looks with covetous eyes on the Philippines, California, and Manchuria and rattles its sword. Why should it endure privations with such lands within striking distance?

From the outlook of economic conditions, the Pacific zone will be the future seat of world politics. Human pressure is most strongly felt in the old Eastern nations, which differ from the rest of the world in levels of civilization and



NEWTON COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL, NEWTON, MASS.

humanity. The newer, more advanced countries lie opposite them on the Pacific and Indian oceans, offering a fatal attraction. Latin-America is open to Asiatic migration, but the United States has formed a common policy with the Dominions in opposing the threatening peril. It is this sense of danger which binds the British Empire together. For example, if Australia and South Africa were not joined to the commonwealth, they would find it difficult to check immigration from India. All three, being sister nations, little friction rises between them. Furthermore England, as leader of the empire, settles their differences with a moderating influence heightened by her remoteness and disinterestedness in the scene.

The United States is, and will be increasingly so, an important member of this barrier against the Eastern menace. She is bound to this alliance not by treaties, but by similar aims and fears. The Dominions look to the United States for future protection. She is leader in the Pacific zone and according to Premier Hughes of Australia, his country welcomes every new ship in the American Navy. The visit of the United States fleet to Sydney in 1925 was regarded with great satisfaction as a safeguard for the future.

Canada, too, feels this need of closer relations with her neighbor and would not run counter to her wishes. While in Canada, Sir Auckland Geddes thus bluntly described the situation: "The British Dominions which look out on the Pacific feel that in Washington there is an instinctive understanding of their difficulties, which when they come to London they have to explain laboriously to Downing Street. When the Dominions look to the mother country and find no satisfactory understanding, they are apt to look to Washington, and Washington, not being devoid of eyes, will look back at them." This feeling will not cause any disloyalty or jealous rivalry between the two greater nations. Canada will ever remain faithful to the United Kingdom and Americans look to her as an interpreter of relations with it. England is far from contesting the domination of the sea with the United States. A great Anglo-Saxon program has been arrived at by the two nations, which is supported by Australia and Canada. They are all closely connected in a common effort to preserve themselves from foreign aggression.

The English-speaking nations will become more closely allied from the standpoint of population and the diminishing food supply. Modern

inventions act as a powerful stimulant to backward countries. The improvement and sanitation brought about by English intervention in Egypt has nearly doubled the population. India has also grown with the inroads of modern civilization. As Japan and China gradually rise to European standards, their death rate will be cut in half. Under these conditions they must either fight or starve from sheer weight of numbers. Hades is less attractive than a territory across the sea and "Hunger," it is said, "hath no conscience." In the meanwhile the coming United States and British Empire will be able to accommodate only their own millions, begrudging any export in the form of food and much less, any further colonization. In this way the bonds which now strengthen British-American relations, will tighten under the coming crisis and establish a firmer unity between the two leading trade nations, the champions of the white race.

Americans looked askance at England even up to the twentieth century. They nursed an old grudge dating from the burning of the capital in 1814 and frowned upon English partiality for the rebels during the Civil War. Orators harped on this string to the delight of eager

listeners. Circumstances in recent years have overcome this misunderstanding and attitude of suspicion. When swarms of Jewish and Latin-Slav immigrants began to inundate the eastern cities, Americans awoke to their Saxon heritage and descent. They came to appreciate more the civilization they held in common with the mother country. Hostility gave way to friendliness, encouraged by ties of literature, religion, and systems of finance. In European conferences the United States realizes the value of England as a sympathetic interpreter to other nations. These bonds dispel the ancient clouds of enmity which America cherished in her hour of growth and expansion. The similarity of ideals was well expressed in the World War when Walter Hines Page so urgently called this fact to the attention of his country. The ambassador felt that the attitude and outlook for the future were the same in both nations. He, too, presaged a thorough co-operation of the two great powers, joined in the leadership of the white race, with hands clasped across the sea.



MAX WALES

THE ESSAY AWARDED THIRD PRIZE

By MAX WALES, of Topeka, Kansas

A Student at Topeka High School

SINCE the beginning of time obtaining food has been one of man's most vexing problems. With it has been closely associated the problem of population, since the amount of food that must be produced depends upon the number that will consume it, and the number of consumers is fixed by the amount of food that can be produced. Since food is one of the prime necessities of life, it, quite naturally, was one of man's first perplexities. The problem of obtaining food occupied the early man to the exclusion of almost every other thought. At the same time the necessity of finding new and more dependable ways of getting food has been the greatest stimulus in the development of civilization as we know it today. Necessity has been not only the mother of invention but also the grandmother of the brotherhood of man. It was

the cause not only of many alliances, but also of many conflicts and hatreds. If his food were meat it was necessary for man first to kill the animal, and then he faced the difficult problem of getting it home. Many greedy and hungry men who were unwilling to work for their own subsistence often tried to take the reward of his labors by force. Of course a conflict, a fight, resulted; and the best fighter got the food. Men soon discovered that in groups it was easier either to protect themselves or attack others. It is easily seen that these groups, the first unions of men, governed their relations with other groups through want, greed, or protection. These groups developed into tribes and communities and then into nations; and the destiny of these nations has been governed nearly as much by the food problem as were the older groups. In the early struggles it would often become necessary for a group to move to larger and more fertile areas in order to support the growing population. But as the world became more densely populated the methods of settling the pressing economic questions became more difficult. Also, in modern countries many other things have entered into the formation of foreign relations and the causes of conflicts and friendships among na-

tions. In some countries the food supply can be seen as the controlling factor in governing the destiny of the country, while in many others progress or destruction has been brought about through other causes. The destiny of most nations is governed, however, by the food supply problem and its effects upon the actions of the people both in their domestic endeavors and their international activities.

Malthus, an English clergyman, wrote a long discussion of the relations of food supply and population. His theory was "in a given state of the arts of production the population tends to outrun subsistence." He even went so far as to predict that a time would come when the world, through the lack of subsistence, would face starvation. His theory up to the present time has not been fully proved. As the food supplies of the world seem to be rapidly diminishing with the population increasing, however, some serious minded people wonder to what extent the food supplies are diminishing and what effect this will have upon the future relations of the nations of the world. To study this thoroughly we must take into consideration several things. We must consider the present and future rate of increase of population and investigate the

actual food supplies and the possibilities of increasing them. If it is shown that the population is increasing faster than food supplies can be developed, we must consider at just what point this will affect our relations with the United Kingdom and other countries of the world. Also, we must try to determine to what extent such a situation will affect our relations.

In considering our growing population we shall not attempt to prove that the population is increasing at such a rate that it will be necessary for us to farm our fence corners in the near future. The population of the United States at the present time is not increasing as rapidly as it was a few years ago. There are several good reasons for this. First the immigration that swelled our population has been restricted. Before it was diminished more than a million immigrants came into the United States a year. These immigrants reproduced much more rapidly than the native stock and affected our increase of population greatly. Since such immense numbers of immigrants have been restricted our population is not increasing as rapidly as it has in the past. However, the rural population of the United States still is much more than reproducing itself and this has an

important bearing on food surplus production. There are several things in our country, however, that tend to restrict the increase of population. The high standards of living have a very pronounced effect in this direction. The standard of living in the United States is one of the highest of the world and the American people wish even higher standards. The independence of women may also retard the increase, but, on the other hand, the low death rate is favoring a larger increase. So, although the rate of increase has been lowered, our population is increasing.

Our increasing population will, beyond a doubt, reach the place in the future where our own people will consume the present amount of food produced in our country. Now let us see to what extent the food supply can be increased and the probability of such an increase. There are three ways of increasing our food supply: development of agricultural efficiency, reclamation of lands, and importation of food.

First, consider the development of agricultural efficiency and intensive cultivation. Intensive soil tillage if practiced in the United States would support a much larger population than we now have, but it would require a great deal of labor

and expense. It has been said that the Japanese could support their population by using the fence corners of our country, and they do support about sixty million people on an area about the size of the State of Iowa. Undoubtedly we could support a huge population by more intensive cultivation of our lands. Another development in agricultural efficiency may be brought about through the aid of science. Scientists have already helped to fight the enemies of the crops which cause such losses each year, and they have developed varieties of plants that can be grown where soil or climatic conditions make the growth of less hardy varieties impossible. The aids of science can scarcely be enumerated but they can and do increase the efficiency of our land.

Second, how much land will be available for an increased efficiency of agriculture? Only in case of necessity does reclamation of land hold forth a promise of extensive development. This field is limited. The best soils of the earth are under cultivation and millions of acres have already been reclaimed by drainage, irrigation, dry farming, and other methods. To reclaim the remaining tracts of land would be so expensive as to be almost prohibitive unless con-

ditions become acute. There are about two hundred and fifty million acres, according to Dublin's *Population Problems*, which could be made fit for agriculture in our country, but to utilize this acreage much of our forests would have to be cleared, our swamps drained, our deserts irrigated, and other expensive operations carried on. Reclamation is for the most part an expensive means of increasing food supply.

Reclamation of our land, then, will be carried out on a large scale only when it is imperative. The third method of increasing our food supply is importation. We could import food from other food-producing nations of the world. These regions are Canada, Argentina, Brazil, Siberia, and Central Africa. Some of these regions would have to be developed a great deal before a greater quantity of food than is now available could be produced. And though this expansion is possible it is also limited and expensive. These countries also have some natural disadvantages. Siberia and Canada both have early and late frosts and early killing temperatures which greatly decrease their efficiency. Siberia has much soil that is of poor quality and lacks moisture. As for the countries of the South Temperate zone, they have less dependable climates and

have frequent drouths which cause crop failures and shortages to be more common than in the North Temperate zone. Perhaps, if necessity warranted, these disadvantages might be overcome. The tropics are also looked upon as a place from which food for the future population might be sent to more populous countries. But they also have many drawbacks. It is doubtful whether they could support a large white population without enormous expense, and also the tropics already have a large population of natives. The difficulties in developing the tropical lands and of the white race living there will prevent their use except in case of dire extremities.

From this study it may be ascertained that the world's population is approaching a situation in which food requirements cannot be met without great expense in the more populous areas. When the population reaches this point the food supplies may be increased, but the important thing to remember is that the first effects upon international relations will be noticed when cheap food supplies are no longer to be had. To find the effect of this meeting of population increase and cheap food supply exhaustion, and the extent of the change in the relations between

the United States and the United Kingdom, and their relations toward other countries, we must take into consideration the optimum size of population. That is, we must take into consideration not the largest number of human beings that can be supported on any certain plot of ground, but the number that can be supported and still maintain normal happiness. The normal happiness that a population is used to will be diminished when the people accustomed to high standards of living must lower them. Thus when the normal happiness is diminished we may expect the first changes in international relations.

If we compare the conditions of our country with those of the United Kingdom, keeping these things in mind, we can see how our relations will be affected sometime in the future. The United Kingdom supports a large population on a small area. It is not necessary to make an exhaustive research to determine the present and future population of the United Kingdom. Her population is increasing, not as rapidly as it has been, but nevertheless increasing. Even if it were a stationary population the United Kingdom could not keep starvation out of the land if her food supplies were cut off. That is why the United Kingdom feels compelled to main-

tain such a large navy. There is little chance of any country ever again trying to cut off her food supply forcibly but there might be a diminishing output at the sources of her food supply. The British Isles have five external sources of food supply, the United States, Canada, Australia, Africa, and South America. The population in all these countries is rapidly increasing; it is natural to expect a rapid growth in population of a country which produces large quantities of food. The standards of living are also high, as they usually are in countries with an abundance of food. The United States is changing from a food exporter to a food importer and even now our food imports balance our food exports. There will be a time when we shall import food because importing food will be much cheaper than developing our waste lands. And since we are much nearer Canada, Temperate South America, and even Australia, we will be able to import food from them much more cheaply than from the United Kingdom. This is not to be considered in any way a threat of starvation against the British Isles. For many years to come there will be plenty of land which, if actual starvation is foreseen, can be developed. This condition, however, will undoubtedly



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raise the price of food and raw materials higher in England than in the United States. If this happens to any extent it will make it considerably more difficult for England to compete with other manufacturing nations. This situation would necessitate either a smaller population or lowered standards of living. Then we may expect that our relations will be affected economically or militarily, or even both, to such an extent as might be expected when a people's prosperity is at stake. That is, we may expect radical changes in our relations with the United Kingdom.

A problem somewhat similar is found in Japan. Japan is supporting a tremendous population on a small area of land, and this population is increasing rapidly, probably due to the fact that their religion encourages a large increase in population. Japan's population made it necessary for her to expand on the mainland of Asia. It also caused a peaceful penetration of our western coast and the other states bordering the Pacific. Peaceful penetration has been closed to Japan in nearly all of the lands of the Pacific. Since Japan is supporting the maximum population that can be supported by her present means she must either change her way of sup-

porting her population or expand. If she adopts the more desirable and possibly the most probable way—that of manufacturing to help support her millions—she will be in much the same position as the United Kingdom. In that case our relations with Japan would be somewhat similar to those with the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom's relations with Japan would be those of two commercial nations in competition.

In France the situation is different. France has an outlook for a stationary or even declining population. This means that her dependence upon imported foods will not vary much. Even now it is slight compared with that of some European countries. Since she will be largely self-supporting, the relations between France and the United Kingdom and the United States will probably not vary as much as among other countries.

In Italy the situation somewhat resembles that of Japan. The government and the social customs encourage a large population thru big family groups. At the present Italy is able to support sixty or seventy per cent of her population. And, as in Japan, there are two possibilities for the future, expansion, or development of commercial activities. In either case the changes

in relations toward this country will probably be similar to those toward Japan under the same circumstances.

It is not necessary to study each country of the world separately in this manner, but they can be divided into three groups according to the probable variation in relations toward the United Kingdom and the United States. In the first group are those nations that somewhat resemble France. They are not great food producers nor are they dependent upon large quantities of imported foods. Their populations show little signs of increasing and as long as they remain in this class their relations toward other countries will change very little. In the second group are those countries which are the producers of large quantities of food for export. In these countries there will be a great deal of competition among the food importing nations. The third class is made up of those nations whose relations toward other countries will change greatly. They will have to import food to support their population. They have open to them two means of supporting their population: territorial expansion or increased commercial activities. In either case radical changes may be expected.

There will come a time in the future when, due to the lack of cheap food, the attitudes of the United Kingdom and the United States toward each other will be changed. The people of the United States should not think that this problem is one that will affect the United Kingdom alone. No nation will sit down and allow its prosperity to diminish. That the British Isles will make supreme efforts to maintain their cheap food supply is unquestionable, even now illustrated in the fact that the United Kingdom maintains the largest navy in the world. The way in which this problem has been solved in the past has been by war. Does this mean that a struggle must issue between these two countries or any other nations of the world? No! This is barely possible but not by any means probable. Why? The peoples of these two nations have no desire to destroy each other. Another war, between these two peoples, would all but destroy our civilization. Our people and the English are too intelligent to be led to murder each other in a blind and blundering effort to meet the food supply situation in the old primitive, savage way. The only permanent and enduring settlement of this problem must be through peaceable actions prompted by the high-

est ideals and carried out with the highest intelligent direction. Only through peace can this earth insure the happiness that each of God's creatures deserves. There must be an organization of the nations of the world to secure this. The League of Nations is founded for promoting peace by providing a way to meet the primitive needs of man. If the League can but work as well in practice as in theory, it will probably be this organization that will maintain peace and solve the food supply problems. If not, another institution organized for the purpose of promoting peace and solving commercial and economic problems must be brought into being if Christianity is to be practiced and the highest ideals of civilization are to be maintained.

With or without such an institution the responsibility for peace rests largely upon the United States and the United Kingdom. These countries which have contributed so much to civilization must in this threatening crisis direct their actions so as to inspire in all the nations of the world faith in peace. If the United Kingdom and the United States would but unite their efforts for the purpose of maintaining peace, peace could become a glorious permanent reality. What an opportunity! What a responsibility!

Will these two nations leave that golden leaf in the annals of history which is so sure a sign of advancing civilization, or will their actions blot the pages of history? Surely the world can expect the people of the United States and the United Kingdom to rely upon their intelligence buttressed by a real spirit of Christianity and can expect them to take this greatest of all steps—the step which will inaugurate eternal peace and prosperity throughout the entire world.

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